

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the proposals presented in the House on October 29 indicated a certain level of participation which the government was obviously considering as reasonable. As I indicated to the CFA yesterday, this is the kind of question that is bound to be under continuing review as circumstances change and as the facts become more readily apparent to everyone concerned.

INQUIRY AS TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF REGULATIONS RESPECTING PROTEIN GRADING OF WHEAT

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Because of its importance to our export trade and in view of the very great interest in the matter on the Prairies, can the minister inform the House when he will announce the regulations under the new Canada Grain Act which will authorize protein grading for wheat?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we hope that within a very few days we will have the regulations ready so that the Act can be proclaimed. With regard to the protein grading aspects or the changes in the grades taking into account protein, we are required to give some notice of this. I think I have already stated that we hope to make a start on this at the beginning of the new crop year so far as grades to the farmers are concerned.

PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—OPPORTUNITY FOR HOUSE DEBATE PRIOR TO FINAL DETERMINATION—REQUEST FOR BACKGROUND PAPERS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the importance of the grain policy proposals and the varying views that have been expressed by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at the meeting this week, will an opportunity be given the House to debate this important matter before the proposals of the government are finalized? May I also ask the minister whether he is in a position now to provide an answer to my inquiry of Monday last whether background analyses and information developed with respect to the government's proposal will be tabled or otherwise made available?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it would be my hope that we would make to the House a further presentation of the government view on what the proposals should be and to make this presentation in the form of legislation that would then be put before the House and a committee of the House for full discussion and debate.

I have looked into the question of the tabling of background studies and information, but I find that so much of the total development of the program is in a variety of forms as not to be suitable for tabling. It would be inappropriate to present to the House at this stage those portions which are in fact on pieces of paper, though of course it would be my intention to answer very fully questions asked by hon. members, and indeed to provide

[Mr. Gleave.]

for the fullest exploration of the subject by hon. members at the committee stage.

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF TWO-PRICE SYSTEM

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister who answers for the Wheat Board. In line with the thinking he expressed to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and his statement that "it is essential that every effort be made to maximize the return to the grain producer from the sale of his product both at home and in export markets", is the government giving consideration at this time to establishing a two-price system for wheat, since it takes Canadians four minutes to earn the money to buy one pound of bread compared with 12 minutes in Russia and 27 minutes in Japan, which might also be in line with some of the—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply, but I have to caution hon. members that in a few minutes we will be running out of time and we have not even completed the first round of questions.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Naturally, Mr. Speaker, we are conscious of the representations that are made by distinguished farm organizations on this or any other subject. This really forms a part of the total analysis of the appropriate amount of assistance or financial help that can be made available to the agricultural industry.

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TRADE

MEAT—INSTRUCTION OF NEW ZEALAND PACKERS BY CANADIAN EXPERTS ON CUTTING AND PACKAGING

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I will direct to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It concerns the Canadian team of experts who were sent to New Zealand to instruct meat packers in that country on the cutting and packaging of meats for the Canadian market. Does he not think that this gives an unfair advantage to these people who are competing with our packers for markets in this country?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is inviting the Parliamentary Secretary to express an opinion in relation to the opinion that he himself has expressed indirectly, and to that extent the question is not permitted.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ASBESTOS, QUE.—ASSISTANCE TO LANDSLIDE VICTIMS

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.